

**NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL COMMISSION**

**Minutes of the Commission Meeting Held Thursday, May 26, 2011**

**COMMISSIONERS**

(The names of those members present are highlighted.)

<b>Hon. Sharon Bulova</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. John C. Cook</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Joan Cross	City of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Steve DeBenedittis</b>	<b>Town of Herndon</b>
Hon. Barbara A. Favola	County of Arlington
<b>Hon. Jay Fiset</b>	<b>County of Arlington</b>
<b>Hon. Robin Gardner</b>	<b>City of Falls Church</b>
<b>Hon. Penelope A. Gross</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
<b>Hon. Pat Herrity</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Catherine Hudgins	County of Fairfax
<b>Hon. Robert W. Lazaro, Jr.</b>	<b>Town of Purcellville</b>
Hon. Michael C. May	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Jeffrey C. McKay</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Suhas Naddoni	City of Manassas Park
Hon. Martin E. Nohe, <i>NVRC Vice Chairman</i>	County of Prince William
<b>Hon. Harry J. Parrish II, NVRC Chairman</b>	<b>City of Manassas</b>
<b>Hon. Redella S. Pepper, NVRC Treasurer</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Frank J. Principi</b>	<b>County of Prince William</b>
<b>Hon. Kenneth "Ken" Reid</b>	<b>Town of Leesburg</b>
<b>Hon. M. Jane Seeman</b>	<b>Town of Vienna</b>
<b>Hon. Paul C. Smedberg</b>	<b>City of Alexandria</b>
<b>Hon. Linda Smyth</b>	<b>County of Fairfax</b>
Hon. Nancy West	Town of Dumfries
<b>Hon. Scott K. York</b>	<b>County of Loudoun</b>

**STAFF PRESENT**

G. Mark Gibb	<i>Executive Director</i>
Linda M. Tenney	<i>Deputy Director</i>
Linda Summerall	<i>Executive Secretary</i>
Samantha Kinzer	<i>Regional Planner</i>
Dale Medearis	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
David Schwengel	<i>Director, Regional Emergency Preparedness Planning</i>
Debbie Spiliotopoulos	<i>Sr. Environmental Planner</i>
Peggy Tadej	<i>No. Va. Regional BRAC Coordinator</i>
Heather Shackley	<i>Website Administrator</i>
Aimee Vosper	<i>Director, Environmental &amp; Planning Services</i>
Stephen Walz	<i>Director, Regional Energy Planning</i>

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Kate Boyle	<i>Fairfax County staff</i>
Donald Briggs	<i>Superintendent, Potomac Heritage Nat'l. Scenic Trail, Nat'l. Park Service</i>
Sue Rowland	<i>NVRC Legislative Liaison; SR Consulting, Inc.</i>
Ric Terman	<i>Northern Virginia Association for History</i>

**CALL TO ORDER** Chairman Parrish called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

**ROLL CALL** The roll was called and all members present or absent were noted for the record.

APPROVAL OF  
MINUTES

Commissioner Pepper moved approval of the minutes of the April 28, 2011, meeting. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

NPS/NVRC  
PHNST  
PARTNERSHIP

Chairman Parrish welcomed Donald Briggs, Superintendent, Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail, National Park Service. Prior to his current position, Mr. Briggs managed technical assistance, special studies and planning projects for the National Park Service in the Mid-Atlantic States. He holds a B.S. in Natural Resources and masters in American Studies and in Community and Regional Planning.

*Donald Briggs*

Mr. Briggs provided a brief overview of the history of the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail (PHNST), a network of locally managed trails for recreation, transportation, health, and education between the mouth of the Potomac River and the Allegheny Highlands. The PHNST is one of 26 Congressionally designated scenic and historic trails in the National Trails System.

NVRC has been involved with the Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail for over 15 years, since the trail's inception.

*questions & answers*

Mr. Gibb thanked Mr. Briggs, adding it has taken a tremendous amount of local cooperation to make this trail viable.

Mr. Briggs confirmed that the Trail ends 1.5 miles outside Pittsburgh, with the extension to the city planned for completion in September.

Commissioner Principi noted his district contains 8.5 miles of the Trail and ten projects. The county is working with the Park Service to finish connecting the Trail within its borders. He noted the trail runs through Occoquan, wildlife refuges, county and state parks, and wetlands, adding it is complicated obtaining trail easements from private landowners.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner York moved approval of the Consent Agenda, consisting of the items outlined below. The motion was seconded and carried.

- A. Financial reports for April 2011
- B. Resolution No. P11-36: Authorization to Increase Line of Credit
- C. Resolution No. P11-37: Authorization to Apply for Project Management of the Four Mile Run Restoration Project
- D. Resolution No. P11-38: Authorization to Submit Grant Proposals for Commuter Boat Market Analysis

EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR'S  
REPORT

Mr. Gibb distributed a copy of his report on:

- Potomac Heritage Trails Workshop
- Conservation Corridors Summit
- NVRC Hosts Virginia-Germany Agreement Signing Ceremony
- Northern Virginia Regional Water Supply Plan Update

Responding to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Gibb confirmed that staff is aware of need to place the regional water supply plan on the agenda of the boards' and councils' public hearings.

NOMINATING

CMTE. REPORT      Scott York, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, reported the slate of officers for election at the Commission's June 23 meeting:

Martin E. Nohe (Prince William County)	Chairman
Robert W. Lazaro, Jr. (Town of Purcellville)	Vice Chairman
Redella S. Pepper (City of Alexandria)	Treasurer

The floor was opened for additional nominations. Hearing none, Commissioner York moved that the floor be closed and the slate of officers as presented stand. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

## REGIONAL ENERGY PLAN

Stephen Walz, NVRC's Director of Regional Energy Planning, explained the goal of the regional plan is to knit together the local jurisdictions' energy plans and the work of MWCOG's Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee, and identify where regional action will add value.

NVRC staff proposes to modify the Energy Task Force and Strategic Energy Plan proposal adopted in February to:

- Convene a Technical Working Group of NVRC and local government staff for identification and coordination of information and regional actions, and use a standing NVRC Energy Committee for strategic direction.
- Compile results of local energy use/greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and fill in holes where inventories have not been completed in order to complete the Regional Energy Use/GHG Inventory.
- Based on targets, goals and measures set by the Northern Virginia localities and the MWCOG committee, identify the short-term, mid-term (2020) and long-term (2050) energy use/GHG emissions reduction goals, targets and metrics being used to measure progress toward local and region-wide goals.
- Identify goals, objectives and strategies for Northern Virginia that will be enhanced by regional action.
- Formalize a Regional Energy Strategy for Commission adoption.

Mr. Walz cited opportunities for regional action such as energy efficiency retrofit services, micro-grid development, and securing Dominion Power's solar demonstration project in Northern Virginia. Responding to Commissioner Gross, Mr. Walz said Dominion Power wants to site its demonstration project where it has supply distribution problems.

Several members expressed support of a strengthened NVRC Energy Committee, and Commissioner Fisette expressed support for a narrowed and refined focus of the regional plan: targeted actions that localities have identified with which they need help. Chairman Parrish concurred.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of the revised regional energy plan and a standing NVRC Energy Committee. The motion was seconded and unanimously adopted.

## NORTHERN VIRGINIA BRAC

Mr. Gibb explained that the committee is working well, with the base commanders providing monthly reports. Out of all of the areas in the country, Northern Virginia is the region most impacted by the 2005 BRAC, with 22,000 personnel being relocated in Northern Virginia. The committee has identified transportation and energy as crucial needs, with three to five years needed to provide the infrastructure improvements. The committee is developing short and long-term strategies and identifying public-private partnerships, such as the commuter ferry and dynamic ride-share. Mr. Gibb concluded by urging the members to begin preparing for the next round of BRAC, 2014-2015.

Commissioner Gross added that the attendance of the base commanders has been extremely valuable, noting that they are interested in the greater community, not just their military base. Commissioner McKay reported that some of the Fairfax County Supervisors meet regularly with the Fort Belvoir command.

Mr. Gibb added that Quantico Marine Corps Base is looking at a joint land use study and is talking with the George Washington Regional Commission and NVRC.

#### OTHER BUSINESS

- *Northern Virginia Association for History's Digital Map Proposal*  
Staff distributed Resolution No. P11-40: Authorization to Enter into Agreement with Northern Virginia Association of History. Mr. Gibb noted the Commission received a brief report on that group's digital map proposal last month.

Commissioner Gross moved approval of Resolution No. P11-40, and the motion was seconded. Responding to Commissioner Gross's inquiries, Mr. Gibb said the history association is a nonprofit and would be the grant recipient; the funding decision should be made within a few months. The resolution was unanimously adopted.

- *Resolution No. P11-39: NVRC Supports Local Jurisdictions' Call for Eliminating the Project Labor Agreement on Phase II of the Dulles Rail Project*  
Commissioner DeBenedittis noted he raised this issue last month, since a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) could substantially increase the project's cost, and agreed to prepare a resolution for consideration at this meeting. Commissioner Fisetta asked if any NVRC staff work was done on the resolution and was told it was submitted as received earlier in the week from the Town of Herndon. He then inquired if anyone had asked MWAA why a PLA was used in Phase I.

Commissioner Bulova distributed a substitute resolution, noting she had already shared it with Commissioner DeBenedittis. She said a voluntary PLA is being used in Phase I, which means there is latitude for construction companies to use it where it works; approximately 52 percent of Phase I is under a voluntary PLA. Those construction companies credit the PLA with helping to keep the project on schedule and foster workplace safety. The MWAA Board has indicated that there has to be a mandated PLA for Phase II. In talking with the unions, she was told they are happy with the voluntary PLA used in Phase I and would like it for Phase II.

Commissioner York said the additional \$300 million in labor costs stated in the original resolution was supplied from the construction industry; a mandatory PLA can increase labor costs by 10-20 percent. If a mandatory PLA is enacted there are firms in Loudoun that will not submit bids. Discussion ensued whether or not MWAA will use a mandatory or a voluntary PLA. Commissioner Herrity reported he spoke with an MWAA board member who said it is a mandatory PLA. He pointed out that the Wilson Bridge project had a mandatory PLA and the first and only bid came in 78 percent over the state's cost estimate; the PLA was removed and the project broken down and it came in under the state's cost estimate. Commissioner Herrity echoed concern that Virginia firms will not bid if a mandatory PLA is in place; further, there are questions of legality of a mandatory PLA in Virginia. Commissioner Reid said he spoke with an official with Dulles Transit Partners and was told Phase II of Dulles Rail will have a mandatory PLA. Commissioner Cook commented that a mandatory PLA favors construction firms headquartered in D.C. and Maryland; the cost needs to be brought down so Phase II can be built. "The greater point is the more bodies that put pressure on the Airports Authority the better chance we have of forcing them to be more responsible in the oversight of this project, and the more responsible they are the better shot we have of pulling this thing off and making it happen."

Commissioner Bulova discussed the value engineering as outlined in the April 18 letter to the MWAA Chairman, and moved adoption of her substitute resolution. The motion was

seconded. Commissioner Fisetta expressed his support for the substitute, noting it gets to efficiency. Discussion ensued over the difference between a voluntary and mandatory PLA. It was agreed the substitute resolution should be amended to include "voluntary Project Labor Agreement."

Commissioner York noted the debate is whether or not there is a financially viable project, expressing outrage that the Dulles Toll Road users are financing the construction of the Dulles Rail, not the riders of the Silver Line. Several members expressed concern about the long-term impact of Toll Road hikes on the economic viability of the Dulles Corridor and the surrounding counties.

Commissioner Reid explained he will not vote for the substitute resolution because he feels it is watered down. Substitute Resolution No. P11-39 was adopted with Commissioner Reid voting no.

Commissioner Lazaro moved that MWAA Chairman Charles Snelling be invited to address the Commission next month on the Dulles Rail Project. Commissioner York said he wants Mr. Snelling to first call the meeting of the Dulles Corridor Advisory Committee, as he has requested in writing. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Chairman Parrish directed the executive director to transmit the resolution to the MWAA Chairman.

ADJOURNMENT      There being no further business, Chairman Parrish adjourned the meeting at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

G. Mark Gibb  
Executive Director

Approved by:

Harry J. Parrish II  
Chairman